

RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE AND WATER RESOURCE UPDATE

Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 13 May 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice update issued by the Department for Water (DFW) on 6 May 2011. A further flow advice will be provided on Friday 20 May 2011.

WATER RESOURCES UPDATE

Whole of River Murray system inflow remains high following a wet spring and summer. In 2010-11 there have been eight months of above average inflow.

River Murray system inflow to the end of April 2011 is expected to be around 16,630 gigalitres (GL), which is almost twice the long-term average inflow for June to April of 8,400 GL.

Inflow to Menindee Lakes has also been high during 2010-11 in response to widespread above average rainfall across southern Queensland and western New South Wales. Menindee Lakes received around 5,680 GL of inflow from June 2010 to April 2011. The long-term average for the same period is 1,690 GL.

Above to near average inflow is expected over the next two months, as catchments remain wet and continue to receive rainfall.

The total flow to South Australia to early May 2011 exceeded 14,000 GL. South Australia is likely to receive around 15,000 GL of flow by the end of June 2011.

Flow to South Australia in 2010-11 will be the highest recorded since 1975-76, when 20,660 GL flowed to South Australia.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority storage levels as at 12 May 2011 and around the same time last year

Storage	Full Supply Volume GL	12/5/2011 GL	12/5/2010 GL	Long-term Average (April) GL
Dartmouth	3,856	2,438 (63%)	1,232 (32%)	
Hume	3,003	2,804 (93%)	512 (17%)	
Lake Victoria	677	373 (55%)	437 (65%)	
Menindee Lakes (FSL)	1,731	1,892 (109%)	1,282 (74%)	
TOTAL	9,267 (100%)	7,507 (81%)	3,463 (37%)	4,950 (53%)



FLOW OUTLOOK

River Murray flood waters are receding slowly, with the flow at Wentworth now at approximately 37,000 megalitres per day (ML/day). Flow at the South Australian border has reduced to around 33,000 ML/day and is steadily reducing. The majority of flow is within the channel, with water progressively draining off the floodplain and adjacent areas. This outlook is subject to further rainfall and changed river operations upstream of South Australia. There are no further high flow peaks in transit upstream of South Australia.

The reinstatement of Lock and Weir 7 (Rufus River, Victoria) will be completed sometime over the next week; however, the navigable pass is still available for use.

All locks and weirs within South Australia have been reinstated, including Lock 2 which is now available for normal lockages.

Flow at Lock 1 is 48,000 ML/day and will gradually reduce over the coming weeks.

As the flow to South Australia continues to reduce, there is a lot of debris such as trees and logs that may be floating on the surface or shallowly submerged. All water users should remain aware of such risks.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.72m AHD. Water levels in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Goolwa Channel have been high over the last few weeks due to additional water from the recent high flow event and constraints on releasing more water through the barrages and Murray Mouth. Some areas have experienced elevated salinity due to sea water backflow events.

Over the coming months the use of barrage operations, to lower and raise water levels to further freshen Lake Albert and remove salt from the Lower Lakes, will continue. It is anticipated that water levels will remain within a range of 0.6m AHD to 0.8m AHD.

In order to decrease and increase water levels in both lakes, it is necessary for some of the gates/bays to be opened and closed at the barrages to maintain the desired water level target. Both water levels and barrage operations are being continually monitored by the Department for Water, SA Water and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

It is important to note that water levels in the Lower Lakes may also vary considerably with wind speed and direction and this, when combined with the high water level, could result in some inundation of low-lying areas around the edges of Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert or the Goolwa Channel.

RIVER SAFETY

Recreational boat users are warned that some artificial structures on the floodplain, wetlands and creeks – including fences, bridges and other structures – could still be under water due to the relatively high flow conditions and could present a risk to their safety.

People are advised to monitor the latest weather and flow forecasts and obey any signage along the River Murray or instructions from the emergency services.

For flood-related assistance, call the State Emergency Service (SES) on **132 500**.

For life-threatening emergencies, call **000**.



RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

SA Water and the Department for Water have developed a River Murray Water Level chart (attached) to provide water levels at a number of locations from Lock 10 (near Wentworth) to Murray Bridge.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Department for Water has published a series of inundation maps for the River Murray. They are available at www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au

Up-to-date River Murray flow and water level information can be accessed at the Department for Water, SA Water and Murray-Darling Basin Authority websites:

<http://data.rivermurray.sa.gov.au>

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-data>

Details of river height and rainfall information in the River Murray within Victoria and New South Wales are available at the Bureau of Meteorology website:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood>

Information on the discharge of acid drainage water into the Lower River Murray can be accessed online at www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority publishes blackwater information on its website, including regularly updated bulletins and maps, at <http://mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater>



River Murray Water Levels as at 11 May 2011

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)	1974 Flood Level	1993 Flood Level
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.83	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.87	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.82	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	23.42	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.32	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.46	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.44	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	14.03	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.75	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.51	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	11.86	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	10.22	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.89	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	8.51	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	7.40	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.59	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	5.38	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	4.80	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.48	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	2.10	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	1.03	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.94	2.06	1.26

Note that water levels do not take into account local wind conditions.

Regularly updated daily water level information can be found at the following websites:

SA Water

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm

Department for Water

<http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx>

Information is also available from the SA Water Hotline on **08 8595 2299**

UPDATES

This advice remains current until the Department for Water notifies otherwise.



Government of South Australia

Department for Water

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